



# TALES FROM THE WASTE-LESS LAND

W I N T E R 2 0 0 1

## MRC Training 2001

The MRC program kicked off it's 2001 (Class 23) training on Tuesday, February 27th! Classes are held at Millennium Elementary School, the "green school" of the Kent School District. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in the training, please have him or her call Karen May at the King County Solid Waste Division (206-296-4353). The weeknights are on Tuesdays and run from February 27th through April 10th from 6:30-9:00pm. There are four Saturdays that will generally run from 9:00am-2:00pm.

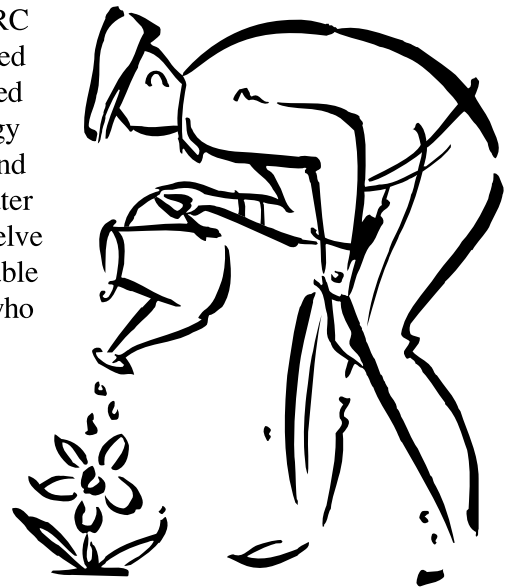
As in the past, alumni are more than welcome to attend any class. This provides the perfect opportunity to update you on the most recent recycling, composting, waste prevention, natural lawn care, soils for salmon, and/or household hazardous waste information! Please call first so we know you're coming and can give you directions (206-343-8505). Here's the schedule (subject to change, another reason to call first!):

- 3/20 Watersheds and water conservation
- 3/24 "Soils for Salmon" and building worm bins at Auburn compost demo site
- 3/27 Household hazardous waste, integrated pest management, and business recycling
- 4/3 Natural lawn care, grasscycling
- 4/7 Composting and recycling facilities bus tour
- 4/10 Graduation (open to all MRCs with over 40 hours)

## Take the Advanced MRC Training!

For the first time ever, the MRC class will be offering an advanced training for those MRCs interested in learning more about the biology of soil, compost applications, and how soil health is related to water quality. This will be a ten to twelve hour training and is only available to those King County residents who have already completed the standard MRC training. In exchange for this training, we ask for an additional 10 outreach hours in which volunteers will speak about soil health. This will be a fun, hands-on training getting dirty

with the compost! The training is scheduled to begin in mid-April with a tentative starting date of April 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details...



## Humor Makes the World Go Round



Stay on top of the latest environmental issues and chuckle at the same time. Impossible, you say? Then you need to visit GRIST MAGAZINE. They call it providing "gloom and doom with a sense of humor." GRIST MAGAZINE, "a beacon in the smog", <http://www.gristmagazine.com> is a project of Earth Day Network (<http://www.earthday.net>).

# Check out these conferences throughout the Northwest:

Conferences are a great way to find out what's new in the world of composting and recycling. They also provide an opportunity to meet people that are at the forefront of their field. Several are coming up that are fairly near and may be of interest. While conferences can sometimes be expensive, all offer scholarship and/or volunteer opportunities. Call or visit their websites for more info.

- 1) **Environmental Educators of Washington and Oregon Conference** – March 30-April 1 in Portland, OR. Three days of meetings and field trips for educators. “Environmental Imagination: Creative Education for the Northwest” is the theme for 2001. (206-615-1554, <http://www.eeaw.org/Conference/index.html>)
- 2) **Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA)** – May 6-9 in Yakima. The mission of WSRA is to provide leadership and education to foster the expansion, diversity, and economic vitality of recycling as part of integrated resource management. (206-244-0311)
- 3) **Eco Design Arts Conference** – April 19-22 in Eugene, OR. This year's conference, “Fostering Environmental Literacy” explores the formation of relationships between people throughout the world and their surrounding ecosystems, and provides a forum to discover how we can establish ecologically literate cultures. (541-346-0719)
- 4) **National Recycling Coalition** – October 1-3 in Seattle, WA. Many volunteer opportunities exist to help host this national conference. Stay tuned for more information.

## Get Involved with Students!

Do you enjoy working with kids? Want to share your enthusiasm about compost critters and waste reduction? (Kids love to learn about bugs and talk about garbage!) There are lots of opportunities out there for MRCs to work with students from all grade levels. It is a fun and fulfilling way to gather MRC hours!

- Find out if one or more of the classes are interested in doing a waste audit.
- Make a presentation on waste reduction and do a garbage sort.
- Set up a worm bin in a classroom and return periodically to check in with the class to answer questions/troubleshoot.
- Help a science class make a compost pile.
- Contact your local school to find out if you can help with a science fair.

in various ways. Here is what she says about her experience: “I'm a nonfiction storyteller, leaving the kids a trail of breadcrumbs to make the connection between the cycles Mother Earth uses (air, water, nutrient) and the silliness of the straight-line model (resources->manufacture->bury or burn it) we have been using. Once they arrive at OF COURSE, they are hungry for the details of which plastic is made of what and how exactly do aluminum cans make it back to the shelf in 60 days. I break out my recycling toys (aka garbage) and watch them develop confidence in making order from chaos, resources from garbage. It gives me hope!”



## More Outreach Opportunities:

Even though the Groundhog saw his shadow earlier this month, all other signs point to spring being just around the corner, and we know what that means...lots of outreach events! Mower events, MANY compost bin sales, nursery Q&A's, and much more!

For all of these opportunities, please call the HOTLINE (206) 343-8505!

### Compost Bin Sales

Many cities are offering discounted recycled-plastic compost bins to their residents. RPM (Remanufactured Plastics Marketing) needs your help educating residents on their new bins. All shifts are on Saturdays from 8:30am-12:00pm, or 12:00pm-3:30pm.

March 17, Sammamish  
March 24, Black Diamond  
April 21, Kenmore  
April 21, Covington  
April 28, Kirkland  
May 12, Algona  
June 2, Enumclaw



### Grasscycling Gives You Mower for Less events

This year we have more locations to staff than ever before! We need MRCs for 3 different dates and locations to train residents about grasscycling, natural lawn care, and composting. Free lunch! Shifts are the same for all three dates: 7:30am-11:00am, 10:30am-2pm

Sunday, April 1, Auburn  
Saturday, April 7, Redmond  
Sunday, April 8, Tacoma

### Bellevue Center Kiwanis Breakfast

Give a quick worm compost demo to Kiwanis members while they finish their breakfasts. They'll even bring the worms!

Friday, April 6, 7:00am-8:00am. (Meeting lasts an hour, but presentation is only 20-30 minutes.)

### SeaTac Special Collection

Help out with this large-scale events helping SeaTac resident dispose of their waste safely.

Saturday, April 7, 8:00am-11:00am, 11:00am-2:00pm.

### SeaTac Yard Debris Collection

Another collection event from the helpful folks at the City of SeaTac!

Saturday, April 21, 8:00am-11:00am, 11:00am-2:00pm.

### King County Compost Bin Event

Teach King County residents how to compost yard waste in their new compost bins. Educate them on worm bin composting, natural lawn care, and how all these things can help save the salmon! This year you have (whew!) 4 locations to choose from: Auburn, Renton, Issaquah, and Kirkland.

Saturday, May 5, 8:00am-12:00pm, 12:00pm-4:00pm.

### South King County Arboretum

Staff a booth to answer composting questions at the Arboretum's semi-annual plant sale.

Friday, May 11, 10:00am-12:00pm, 12:00pm-2:00pm, 2:00pm-4:00pm, 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Saturday, May 12, 10:00am-12:00pm, 12:00pm-2:00pm, 2:00pm-4:00pm.

### Molbak's

It's time for another season at Molbak's! Come staff a 2-hour question and answer stint at this busy nursery.

Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00pm. Call the Hotline for dates.

## Here is an upcoming opportunity!

King County Secondary Schools Waste Reduction and Recycling program is hosting an Earth Day community service event getting students involved in various "take-action" activities. The event will take place in various school districts, involving a couple of schools per district. A lot of help is needed on the day of the event, (not yet decided – watch for a mailer) from 9:00 – 1:00. Possible event activities include:

- Organizing students at the event
- Helping groups of students with storm drain stenciling
- Helping with litter pick-up
- Helping with technical assistance at the school the day of the event
- Worm bin and compost pile demonstrations
- Long-term help with a wildlife garden

## Are you worm-sitting a demo bin?

Sometimes bins get passed from one volunteer to another. We are all going to be very busy this spring and the demo bins will be in hot demand! To be most efficient, we need to update our list of demo worm bin holders. Please contact the Hotline ASAP (206-343-8505) if you have a demo worm bin in your possession. Thank you!



## Expanding MRC volunteer opportunities and audiences!

The MRC program is eager to continue diversifying volunteers, events, and audiences. Do you know of any event throughout the county in which MRCs should be active but are not currently? Are there communities near you that have not been touched by MRCs? We would love to hear more of your ideas, please call the Hotline (206-343-8505).

## New Wastemobile schedules are out!

Call the Hotline if you would like copies for yourself or for friends and neighbors (206-343-8505).

## Decade of Peace

2001-2010, the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World is a global initiative started by Nobel Peace laureates and approved by UN General Assembly in 1998. To read the appeal written to the UN or to find out what you can do to help, visit their website, [www.nobelweb.org](http://www.nobelweb.org).



## King County Solid Waste Division

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